

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS



Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



20C

Election for board of directors

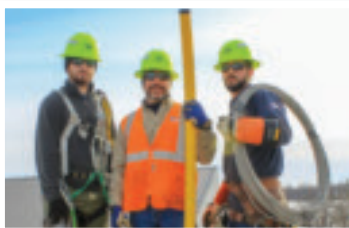
Director nomination petition deadline is April 12



20E

Business Continuity Management Plan

Employees receive business continuity certification



20H

Lineworker Appreciation Day

The commitment of an electric lineman

Considering solar? Jo-Carroll Energy is here to help

The interest in solar is being fueled by lower costs and the availability of financial incentives. To determine whether solar is right for your particular situation, homeowners, businesses and public entities must undertake their due diligence. First, start by contacting Jo-Carroll Energy (Jo-Carroll), your trusted energy advisor.

We're here to help

We constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. Before adding solar, it is important to perform an energy assessment or audit, which will suggest ways to reduce your energy usage. This will allow you to minimize the size of the solar array, reducing your overall cost of the solar array, as well as your cost for energy. Note that we offer energy assessments or audits as a service to help you use energy more efficiently.

As your trusted energy advisor, Jo-Carroll can offer a candid assessment of your specific situation. We will share with you the specifics relevant to the solar array's interconnection to your home or business and agreement(s) that are allowed by law with a solar company. For example, you are required to have an interconnection agreement with Jo-Carroll for any solar array for your safety and



CEO'S REPORT
by Mike Casper

protection, as well as the overall electric distribution system.

Is solar right for you?

To help determine whether solar is right for you, Jo-Carroll will look at the:

- overall energy efficiency of the home/building
- orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building or proposed solar array location
- potential shading

We will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options. While rooftop solar certainly works for some people, it's not the answer for all.

When helping our members determine whether solar is right for them, Jo-Carroll will also discuss the many financial considerations:

- Who will own the panels, or will they be leased?
- Is there a large, up-front payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- Are there any hidden costs, i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?

continued on page 20C ▶

Resume of Minutes

January 24, 2019

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn

Chairman

District 7

Russell Holesinger

Vice Chairman

District 8

Marcia Stanger

Secretary

District 3

Martin Werner

District 1

Joseph Mattingley

District 2

Dan Tindell

District 4

Patricia Smith

District 5

Thomas Lundy

District 6

Larry Carroll

District 9

Robert Kuhns

Treasurer

District 10

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

Elizabeth

793 U.S. Route 20 West

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Savanna

103 Chicago Ave.

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Geneseo

1004 S. Chicago St.

7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1:30 to 4 p.m.

Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522

www.jocarroll.com

For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held at the cooperative's headquarters in Elizabeth, Illinois on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Larry Carroll.

Presentations –

CFO Chuck Woods provided a summary of Jo-Carroll Energy's audit process and noted that the full auditor report will be presented at the March board meeting.

Ken Sivertsen and Jeff Harrelson discussed Jo-Carroll Energy's Business Continuity project. The main-focus of Business Continuity is to be able to effectively respond to a crisis or emergency while still meeting legal and regulatory obligations, minimize risks to members and employees, and having contingency plans ready in the event of a disruption of normal business activities

Chairman's/AIEC AND NRECA Report

– Senn provided positive feedback on the Business Continuity plan that was presented. Senn also provided some highlights from the AIEC meeting he recently attended.

APGA Report – Director Carroll provided an update on regulatory matters being followed by the American Public Gas Association (APGA).

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC)

Report – The Dairyland Report was emailed prior to the board meeting.

Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report –

Director Kuhns provided an electric generation summary from the December PPI board meeting.

Board Policy 126 – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to rescind Policy 126 "Purchase of Materials, Supplies & Equipment." It was explained that the President & CEO has discretion over these matters and a board policy is unnecessary.

Policy 121 – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Board Policy 121 "Safety and Job Training."

Governance Overview Topic – Director Tindell presented a governance video from National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) regarding finding the right level of transparency in an organization.

CEO's Report – President and CEO Mike Casper commented on the new format of the "Hi-Lines" center section in the Illinois Country Living magazine.

Financial Operating Report –

CFO Woods noted that the cooperative's operating margins for December YTD were approximately \$2 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$2.125 million. The current equity of the cooperative is 22.83 percent.

Operations & Regulatory/Legislative Update

– Kyle Buros, Senior V.P. and Assistant General Manager discussed Jo-Carroll Energy's enhancements to the organization's strategic vision. Economic Development, smart energy use, business continuity and enhancing value for our members are areas that Jo-Carroll Energy continues to focus.

External Relations Update – Chris Allendorf, Vice President of External Relations & General Counsel, noted that Governor Pritzker has signaled that he will hold Illinois to the Paris Climate Accord emissions standards. Allendorf also commented on the U.S. government shutdown and the effects it is having locally. Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWIED) will be holding its 10th Annual Meeting on March 14 at the Eagle Ridge Resort. Allendorf also shared that the Campbell Center in Mt. Carroll was recently purchased by Rock Island Development Group.

Board Issues and Action Items – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Discounted Estate Capital Credit Retirements.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve a donation in the amount of \$1,000 toward the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Annual Campaign.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the bylaw amendments as presented.

NRECA Annual Meeting voting delegates were selected.

CFC voting delegates were selected.

Action items as a result of Executive Session – None.

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Considering solar?

continued from page 20A

- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- Is it more cost effective to invest in other energy saving measures and/or consider other alternate options?

Jo-Carroll will provide a perspective on the total energy puzzle, taking into account current energy consumption, the home/building "envelope," age and efficiency of your large

energy loads (i.e., HVAC system).

Jo-Carroll recognizes that interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help you determine your best options. I encourage you to first visit our website at www.jocarroll.com and click on the "Distributed Generation" tab for additional information and to learn more about the interconnection process. Then don't hesitate to call us at 800-858-5522 and ask to speak with someone regarding solar.

Director nomination petition deadline is April 12

Deadline for filing nomination petitions for the 2019 board of director election is Friday, April 12.

Three director posts are up for election in 2019. They include representatives for Districts 1, 2 and 4. Any Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in a district that is up for election – including the incumbent – may petition for nomination in that district.

Members interested in seeking election to the board may download a petition from the cooperative's website at jocarroll.com or pick up a form at any of Jo-Carroll's offices.

Petitions must be signed by at least 25 Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in the district for which the director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's Elizabeth headquarters no later than Friday, April 12.

In order to qualify to have their name placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the attorney for the cooperative, assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors. These include, but are not limited to: time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary duties.

All eligible candidates will be listed on the cooperative's website and in Hi-Lines. Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in Jo-Carroll Energy's bylaws posted at jocarroll.com. Anyone without internet access may request a copy by calling 800-858-5522.

Election process

Members may vote for one director for the district in which they reside – or in which the member is entitled to vote.

If only one candidate files in a district, no ballots are mailed and election is by a motion of acclamation at the annual meeting. Ballots are not mailed. The 2019 annual meeting will be held on June 12 at the West Carroll Middle School in Mount Carroll.

If more than one candidate files for the director position in a district, an election by ballot will be held for that district. This year, the cooperative is using a hybrid voting method that will allow members to either vote by mail or online. Jo-Carroll Energy is working with Survey & Ballot Systems to conduct the election.

Ballots and voting instructions, including information about the new online option, will be mailed to each member residing in a district where there are two or more candidates. The vote can be done either by the paper ballot or online; only one vote per membership counts. Ballot packets and information will be sent to members in early May. The special election website will also open in early May.

If voting by paper ballot, members will complete their vote as usual. Completed ballots will be returned in the provided envelope to SBS, who will deliver the ballots to Jo-Carroll headquarters the day prior to the annual meeting.

If voting online, members will be able to access the voting portal through a website using a unique ballot ID and election passcode.

The Election and Credentials Committee will still meet the evening before the annual meeting, however SBS will process and tabulate all ballots, both paper and online.

Vegetation management is important to reliability and safety

Trees may seem harmless on a calm, sunny day, but add some wind, snow or ice on a stormy night and those towering trees may threaten your home's or neighbor's electric supply.

At Jo-Carroll Energy, we're committed to providing safe, reliable power and our right-of-way program is the key to fulfilling that promise. Through our vegetation management maintenance program, we work all year to reduce the risk of damage to our power lines from trees, branches and other vegetation.

The cooperative's rights-of-way are maintained on a rotation by substation, first cutting and thinning vegetation and subsequently with mowing and tree trimming. Trees and vegetation cannot only interfere with power lines and reliability as they grow, they can become safety hazards.

It is crucial that trees are a safe distance from lines. Jo-Carroll has a responsibility to maintain an adequate clearance around its high voltage lines. Trees growing in rights-of-way are typically maintained by the utility. "Danger trees" outside the right-of-way may need to be trimmed if they

are in danger of falling on and damaging co-op lines. Trees growing into service lines on private property are usually the responsibility of the owner. Trimming trees is a dangerous job and best left to trained professionals.

Jo-Carroll Energy works with a contractor, Elite Tree, for the cooperative's regular vegetation management maintenance program, as well as others on a case by case basis.

Vegetation can also cause obstructions around electric and gas meters. Planting in front of a meter or in front of or around an underground cabinet can interfere with operations and can lead to early corrosion.

When planting new trees, take care to plan for safety. Pick the right types of trees to plant in the right locations where they will not grow to be a problem with overhead power lines. It is also important to consider the location of underground utility lines. Remember to call 811 to have buried utilities marked so that you can safely dig around them. Visit jocarroll.com for information and a diagram on proper tree planting around power lines.



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

JCE employees receive business continuity certification

The only thing harder than planning for an emergency is explaining why you didn't. Recognizing this, the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors made the creation and implementation of a Business Continuity Management Plan (BCMP) a key component in the cooperative's strategic plan. By definition, Business Continuity is an ongoing process to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to identify the impact of potential losses and maintain viable recovery strategies, recovery plans, and continuity of services.

The process at Jo-Carroll Energy started in 2015 with Ken Sivertsen and Jeff Harrelson being tasked with developing a Crisis Management Plan, the roots of our BCMP. From there, both Ken and Jeff received their Associate Business Continuity Professional (ABCP) certification in mid-2017 successfully passing a rigorous Qualifying Examination. Late in 2018, the two received their next level of certification, the Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) certification. The CBCP level of certification is for individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and working experience in the business continuity/disaster recovery industry. The CBCP level requires more than two years of experience and is the most widely recognized and held business continuity certification in the world. Biennial recertification requires an ongoing commitment to continuing education and industry activities.

Certifications were received from the Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRI). DRI is a non-profit group that helps organizations around the world prepare for and recover from disasters by



providing education, accreditation, and leadership in Business Continuity and related fields. Founded in 1988, DRI International currently has more than 15,000 certified professionals in more than 100 countries. DRI certified professionals are employed at 94 percent of Fortune 100 companies. Having certified individuals on staff ensures that the BCMP at Jo-Carroll Energy will meet industry standards and will benefit the cooperative and membership in the following ways:

- Minimize the effect of a disruption on our organization
- Meet legal and regulatory obligations
- Retain and enhance image and credibility
- Reveal inefficiencies and address them
- Improve communications

Director's Scholarships deadline is May 1

High school seniors still have time to apply for Jo-Carroll Energy's "Director's Scholarships" that are awarded during the Annual Meeting of Members.

Up to 10 Director's Scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded, one in each of the cooperative's 10 districts. (If no applications are received from a district, that scholarship will become an "at-large" scholarship.)

Current high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Jo-Carroll

Energy, and who have not won another JCE scholarship, are eligible to receive a Director's Scholarship. Application forms are found in the Student Center under the Community tab on our website.

The applicant and at least one of their parents or guardians must attend the annual meeting on June 12 where selections will be made by drawings. This year's annual meeting will be held at the West Carroll Middle School in Mount Carroll.

Dig up safety tips for safe digging month

Spring showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard.

Before you use that post hole digger or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 8-1-1 to request buried electric, gas, cable and other lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, what's the worst that could happen?

You could die or become seriously injured.

There are many other consequences of blindly digging. You could cause a power outage. You could hit a gas line and get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood. You could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable TV or internet service. Worse yet, it could interfere with your neighborhood's emergency assistance technology.

While it may be your yard, utilities have the right of way to the live lines lurking under the ground in places where you might dig. In fact, an underground utility line is damaged once every nine minutes across the nation because someone decided to dig without getting their yard properly marked, according to the Common Ground Alliance. You may think one or two small holes won't matter, but that's what the person thought who hit a line nine minutes ago.

Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans and call 8-1-1 before you dig. Each state has its own call center to help you get digging safely. Illinois' call center is JULIE, which stands for Joint Utility Location Information for Excavators.

So always remember to call JULIE at 8-1-1 several days before any digging project to have underground utilities marked. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project?

Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below.

Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



GROW

THE MESSAGE OF SAFETY

Planting season is a busy and stressful time for farmers. **Safe Electricity reminds farmers to:**

- **STAY IN** your vehicle or machinery if it comes in contact with a power line; **DO NOT** get out.
- **LOOK UP** to avoid machinery/power-line contact (long extensions or tall antennas can get caught).
- **ALWAYS HAVE 10 FEET** of clearance surrounding the live lines — even if no contact is made, an electrical current can arc or jump.
- **STAY AWAY** from a sagging or downed line; call 9-1-1 to have the utility dispatched.
- **USE A SPOTTER** with a broad vantage point when operating machinery around power lines.
- **TEACH** the 10-foot clearance rule to anyone working on your farm and review power line locations.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org



Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Jo-Carroll Energy's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community commitment

Co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

Committed to the job.
Committed to safety.
Committed to you,
our members.

Lineworker Appreciation Day

April 8, 2019



Thank You

Monday, April 8 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of co-op lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local communities. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy.